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2002 E. J. McCARTHY

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR EUGENE J. McCARTHY
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
AT THE HEARINGS ON THE NOMINATION OF JOHN A. McCONE
AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
January 18, 1962

FOR RELEASE: Jan. 18, 1962

MR. CHAIRMAN:

This Committee is charged with the primary and initial responsibility of acting for the Senate in considering the fitness and the qualifications of a presidential nominee, Mr. John A. McCone, for confirmation by the Senate as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The action of the Senate under a constitutionally defined responsibility will, as you the members of this Committee know, depend primarily upon your recommendations.

This is one of the most important confirmations which the Senate is called upon to make. In my opinion, it ranks in importance ahead of most Cabinet confirmations for several reasons: because of the importance of the work of the CIA, the relative freedom of action given the head of the CIA and to his subordinates, and the lack, under existing practice, of any continuing direction or of effective review of CIA activities by the Congress.

I have in the past supported and advocated establishment of a Joint Committee of the Congress to exercise continuing supervision over the activities of the CIA, somewhat in the same manner that the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy operates. If such a committee existed, the choice of the head of the CIA and Senate confirmation would not be so demanding.

There is no regular or normal procedure in existence or in use today by which committees of the Congress are consulted or informed of CIA activities. During a discussion of a proposed Joint Committee on Central Intelligence on the floor of the Senate on April 9, 1956, Senator Mansfield asked, "How many times does CIA request a meeting with the particular subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee and the Armed Services Committee. . . ." Senator Saltonstall, a member of both committees, replied, ". . . at least twice a year that happens in the Armed Services

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Committee and at least once a year it happens in the Appropriations Committee. I